

SPDC

Summer Newsletter

News & Updates

Work, Live, and Thrive in Southside!

Southside is known for its business-friendly environment and low cost of living. It offers excellent corporate tax rates and competitive business incentives. The Region has emphasized its industrial sector through the modernization and expansion of its infrastructure. Additionally, its ever-growing broadband infrastructure offers opportunities for the Information Technology sector. Area institutes of higher education provide a robust workforce development network to train qualified workers for these industries. Outdoor recreational options abound, offering miles of trails and shoreline and expansive waterways for residents and visitors to enjoy. Check out our new Regional brochure for more reasons to work, live, and thrive in Southside!

**WORK
LIVE &
THRIVE**
IN SOUTHSIDE



Halifax, Brunswick, & Mecklenburg County

[New SPDC Brochure](#)



SPDC Welcomes New Employee

We are excited to announce that Cassandra Malone joined our staff on June 16, 2021 as our Planning Assistant. She has a diploma in Business Administration from National Business College of Roanoke, Virginia. She comes from a mental health background of serving individuals with special needs and performs various duties for the Mecklenburg County School System. An interesting fact – a few years ago, Cassandra assisted our Senior Community Planner, Sangi Cooper, with the Mecklenburg County Highway 49 Project and served as a sparkplug for the community. She is a resident of Clarksville and has one daughter. She enjoys farming and taking care of her animals that include chickens, ducks, and breeding rabbits for children to

enjoy. Cassandra will be assisting the Community Planners with project administration activities.

GIS and Mapping

Tobacco Heritage Trail

The Tobacco Heritage Trail is a treasured resource in the Region. SPDC staff recently coordinated with the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails Board to revamp the Trail's website. This update incorporated additional GIS mapping improvements and a dashboard displaying average temperatures and pedestrian/bicycle traffic counts. This new, more modern website includes an interactive trail map, detailed trailhead locations, and other access points. Click below to explore the new website and plan your very own visit this summer!



[Tobacco Heritage Trail](#)

New Funding Announcements

Southside Housing Development Project

The SPDC was recently awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from Virginia's Housing Development Authority (VHDA) for a Housing Development Project to support first-time, low-to-moderate income homebuyers. Phase I is the Poplar Creek Street Housing Project, currently in development by the Southside Outreach Group and the

Town of South Boston, which will construct sixteen (16) new, affordable duplexes comprised of thirty-two (32) one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. This will serve individuals and families whose income is 40%, 50%, and 60% of the area's median income. In Phase II, the SPDC will partner with Southside Outreach Group to create the Southside PDC Home Development Fund, a revolving fund to construct homes benefiting first-time homebuyers throughout the SPDC Region. The revolving fund will utilize VHDA's grant as seed money for the construction and development of a single-family home that will be sold to a Project qualified homebuyer. Potential homebuyers must be in the process of completing or have completed housing counseling through the Southside Outreach Group. The SPDC will organize a Housing Advisory Committee that will consist of representatives from local government offices as well as community members from around the Region. Together the Housing Advisory Committee will identify and select the locations for new homes through a fair and equitable process. The SPDC and the Southside Outreach Group will have non-voting members on the Housing Advisory Committee to offer guidance and advice throughout the process.

VDOT Smart Scale

The Southside PDC worked with several localities to help secure over \$26 million from VDOT's Smart Scale grant program during the most recent grant cycle. Funds for the projects were officially approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board at their June meeting. The approved projects include:

1. Brunswick County - Intersection improvements at US 58 & Robinson Ferry Road (\$4,260,602)
2. Brunswick County - Improvements to US 58 between Route 46 & Brunswick Square Shopping Center (\$3,198,053)
3. Mecklenburg County - Intersection improvements to US 58 & Regional Airport Road, and US 58 and Brown Town Road (\$3,726,168)
4. Halifax County - Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of LP Bailey Memorial Hwy, N Main St, and Bethel Rd in the Town of Halifax (\$9,921,330)
5. Town of South Hill - Intersection improvements to US 58, Country Lane, and Atlantic St (\$5,181,850).

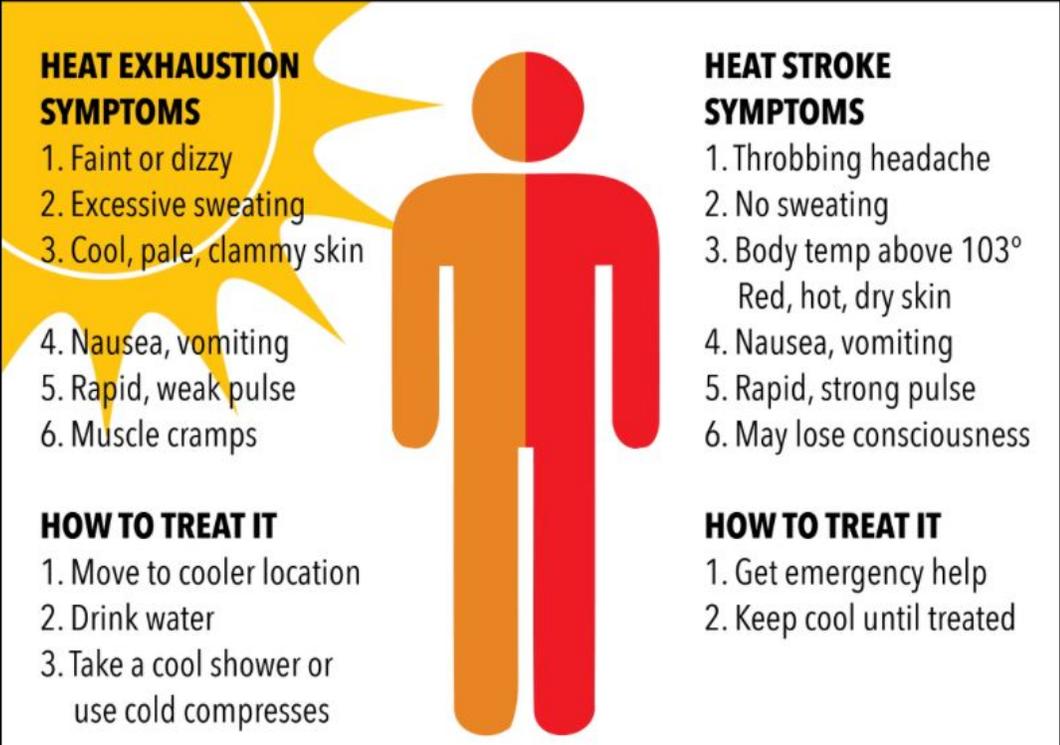
Southern Virginia Food Insecurity Project

The Town of South Hill was recently awarded \$900,000 in DHCD Urgent Need Funding. This Project is a partnership between the Town and the Southern Virginia Food Hub. The goal is to address local food insecurity which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This Project will create several jobs, in addition to supporting multiple small farming businesses. "Fresh Food Boxes" will be provided to low-income residents across Southside Virginia. The Boxes will be delivered to project partner, Area Agency on Aging, locations for use in their "Homemaker Assistance" Programs. This program sends aids into the homes of elderly or impaired persons to prepare meals and assist with other daily chores. Many of the aids have reported that the residents do not have adequate food supplies in their homes for them to prepare the meals. This Project will directly address this need in

support of the community's most vulnerable residents. Additionally, weekly Boxes will be delivered to area food pantries who have seen an increase in requests for assistance.

Resiliency

HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE?



HEAT EXHAUSTION SYMPTOMS	HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Faint or dizzy2. Excessive sweating3. Cool, pale, clammy skin4. Nausea, vomiting5. Rapid, weak pulse6. Muscle cramps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Throbbing headache2. No sweating3. Body temp above 103° Red, hot, dry skin4. Nausea, vomiting5. Rapid, strong pulse6. May lose consciousness
HOW TO TREAT IT	HOW TO TREAT IT
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Move to cooler location2. Drink water3. Take a cool shower or use cold compresses	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Get emergency help2. Keep cool until treated

Heat Related Dangers

Summer is here and it is HOT! It's a good idea to know the warning signs of heat related emergencies. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke. Did you know NOT sweating after being out in the heat can be a sign of heat stroke? This sign is normally accompanied with skin that is dry and hot to the touch with complaints of dizziness and/or headache. While some people are more susceptible to heat injury than others, it can happen to anyone of any level of physical fitness. Heat stroke is a true emergency that requires immediate medical treatment, so call 911! The longer you delay getting treatment, the

higher the risk of serious complications or death. Here are some tips from the Mayo Clinic you can do while you wait for help to arrive. First, move the person into the shade or indoors and remove excess clothing. Next, cool the person with whatever means available such as placing them in a cool tub of water or shower, spray with a garden hose, or place cold, wet towels on the person's head, neck, armpits, and groin. Stay cool and resilient this Summer! Click the link below for more information.

[Heat Emergencies](#)

COVID-19 Resources



What is the delta variant? Do I have to worry? Is it really more dangerous than "regular" COVID-19? These are some questions that might be going through your mind as you listen to the news. What concerns you the most about this new and potentially more dangerous strain of coronavirus? Jennifer Nuzzo, DrPH, SM, epidemiologist from the Center for Health Security, answered questions about the variant's traits and what it means for those who have been vaccinated,



As the average number of new COVID-19 infections in Virginia quadrupled over the past month, vaccinations have declined and public health officials have expressed concerns. The majority of all cases, hospitalizations, and deaths since the vaccinations became available have been among unvaccinated individuals. The delta variant has made its way toward being the dominant strain of coronavirus. Even still, Virginia has not experienced the massive surges in cases seen in other states. Click the link to read more from the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

and those who have not. Click the link below to read more.

[Delta Variant Surge](#)

[COVID Cases](#)



Out of adversity comes opportunity - so said Benjamin Franklin. Little did he know we would be facing the adversity of a pandemic that shut down businesses for extended periods. Some forced into closing permanently. Many of those who were laid off or let go due to the pandemic found themselves looking for alternate ways to make an income. Many of them started their own business. But, starting your business isn't as easy as waking up one morning and deciding to do just that. The Small Business Administration (SBA) leads the way in educating the public about steps to Plan, Launch, Manage, Market, and Grow a small business. Using these tools as a foundation, small businesses are more likely to succeed. Read more about those steps by clicking the link below.

[SBA Resources](#)



Governor Northam announced on July 16, 2021 that Virginia's unemployment rate dropped 0.2% to 4.3% in June, compared to 8.8% one year ago. The rate is adjusted seasonally and continues to be below the national rate of 5.8%. "Virginia's falling unemployment rate and expanding labor force show the strength of our economy and business climate," **said Governor Northam**. "We continue to be recognized as best place in America to do business because we are building a Commonwealth where both workers and employers can thrive. We can all be optimistic about what the future holds as we move beyond this pandemic." The unemployment rate in Virginia was the fourth lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate among the Southeast states.

[Unemployment Rates](#)

[SPDC](#)

[BRUNSWICK](#)

[HALIFAX](#)

[MECKLENBURG
HILL](#)

[SOUTH BOSTON](#)

[SOUTH](#)

[TOBACCO HERITAGE TRAIL](#)



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